

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4359
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01137

LIMDIS

USNATO ALSO PASS TO USDELMC PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, BE
SUBJECT: SHAPE-EUCOM COLLOCATION

REF: STATE 4586

1. WE PROVIDED ANSWERS PROVIDED REFTEL TO QUESTIONS
PREVIOUSLY POSED BY BELGIANS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF
COLLOCATION TO ERIK BAL, FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF,
NATO AFFAIRS, ON JANUARY 19. IN DOING SO, WE WERE
ASSISTED BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SACEUR, CAPTAIN KINERT.

2. AS REQUESTED PARA 3 REFTEL WE AGAIN PRESSED FOR
EARLY DECISION ON POSSIBILITY OF BEGINNING TECHNICAL
DISCUSSIONS RE TEST BORINGS TO COORDINATE WITH
PROJECT 85.

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3. WE ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO PRESS FOR RESPONSE TO
SHAPE/EUCOM COLLOCATION CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT
WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO THE BELGIANS FOR APPROVAL OR
COMMENT ON DECEMBER 15 (77 BRUSSELS 18705 NOTAL).

4. BAL APPRECIATED ANSWERS PROVIDED AND SAID THEY
WOULD ASSIST HIM IN MOVING ISSUE AHEAD. WE OFFERED

POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO BAL BY OFFERING TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO HIM APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS FROM US ELEMENT SHAPE TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ISSUE. BAL NOTED OUR OFFER AND INDICATED HE WOULD PROBABLY DRAW ON IT IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. BAL TOLD US HE WOULD TRY TO SEPARATE QUESTION OF GOB PERMISSION FOR TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING DISCUSSIONS (URGENCY FOR WHICH HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS) FROM OVERALL WARTIME COLLOCATION ISSUE.

6. CONCERNING CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT, BAL SAID THAT ANY PUBLICITY AT ALL AT THIS TIME WOULD BE SEVERELY DAMAGING TO A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE COLLOCATION ISSUE. WITHOUT PROVIDING US WITH A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OR COMMENTS ON THE CONTINGENCY STATEMENT PROVIDED 77 STATE 294987, BAL TOLD US THAT THE GOB COULD NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPT PHRASES IMPLYING THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE UNDERWAY OR EVEN THAT THE COLLOCATION QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED BY THE USG WITH THE GOB, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE LATTER HAD THE MATTER UNDER STUDY. COMMENT: WHILE SUCH IS OBVIOUSLY THE CASE, THE GOB CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE TO ADMIT IT IN PUBLIC AND THEREFORE WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY FORMULATION FROM WHICH THAT CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN. END COMMENT.
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7. BAL WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON EITHER WHERE GOB CONSIDERATION OF THE COLLOCATION ISSUE NOW STANDS OR ON WHEN A FINAL DECISION MIGHT BE REACHED. HE DID INDICATE THAT COLLOCATION WOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY MATTER ONCE THE IMPROVED HAWK ISSUE WAS RESOLVED, POSSIBLY AT THE JANUARY 20 CABINET MEETING. WE REPEATED NEED FOR URGENCY OF REPLY ON OVERALL COLLOCATION ISSUE AND PARTICULARLY ON OUR RENEWED REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENGAGE IN TECHNICAL DESIGN WORK DISCUSSIONS. COMMENT: FEAR OF A LEAK ON THE OVERALL COLLOCATION ISSUE MAY WELL BE BEHIND THE BELGIAN RELUCTANCE TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO GET UNDERWAY. END COMMENT. OLSEN

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